

## Residential Self-Hauling & Organic Waste Handling

California has implemented statewide organic waste recycling regulations to reduce emissions of methane from organic wastes in landfills. Here is what you need to know about self-hauling your organic wastes.

A self-haul resolution has been established for residents in your area. Effective May 1, 2025, the self-haul program will require residents to source separate their trash and self-haul organics to a Kern County operated transfer station or landfill. To comply with Senate Bill 1383 regulations, organic wastes must come in separated by the self-hauler. Meaning, organics must be delivered to a County facility in a manner that allows for green container and blue container organic materials to be recovered and deposited for recycling.

Blue container organics include:

- cardboard, clean paper, copy paper, envelopes, folders, calendars, notebooks, shipping boxes, and other miscellaneous paper products

Green container organics include:

- food and food scraps such as fruits, vegetables, meat, bones, seafood, eggshells, tea bags, coffee grounds, paper filters, dairy products, leftovers, bread, grains, and miscellaneous scraps and peelings
- food-soiled paper such as paper towels, napkins, and pizza boxes
- plant material such as grass clippings, flowers, leaves, branches, yard prunings, twigs, stumps, leaves, hedge trimmings, weeds, manure, home garden residues, wood, and other miscellaneous organic materials

### Separating Wastes at Home

Sorting wastes at your home is generally easy to accomplish. Many people utilize a three-container approach, with containers placed either in their kitchen, common area, garage, or patio. Depending on how much waste your household generates, you may elect to go with any size container that fits your needs and the space limitations in your home. Many home improvement stores and local vendors offer a variety of sizes from 20 gallons to 55 gallons to meet your needs. It is also best practice to label your containers appropriately. The recommendation is to have a container designated for each type of waste stream you generate:

- a container for blue container organics, as listed above
- a container for green container organics, as listed above
- a container for household trash that does not belong in other containers

As you generate wastes, simply deposit your cardboard, junk mail, paper, and envelopes into your designated blue container. Traditional recyclables such as jars, glass, aluminum, plastics, and tin are not defined as organics but do belong in a blue container for recycling. Food waste, yard waste, green waste, food scraps, and food-soiled paper can be dropped into your designated green container. Everything that remains, like styrofoam, plastic bags, pet waste, and wrappers, can be placed in your general trash container.

### Visiting the Transfer Station or Landfill

When visiting a Kern County transfer station or landfill, you will need to deliver items so that you can easily place them into recycling bins or designated stockpiles on site. And since you already have a good process in place at home, it will be easier to separate your organics when you arrive. It is required that all residents stop at the applicable organics drop-off areas and separate organics into stockpile or container. County staff are always available to assist.

GROUND  BOUNDLESS

2700 M Street, #400, Bakersfield, CA. 93301 | 661.862.5100 | [www.KernPublicWorks.com](http://www.KernPublicWorks.com)



- Check in at the gatehouse and enter the transfer station or landfill. Look for signs of where to deposit your various organic wastes. Staff will assist and direct you when inside the transfer station or landfill as to where to deposit your wastes.
- For green container organics:
  - deposit food waste and food-soiled paper into the designated stockpile
  - place grass, leaves, manure, yard waste, and wood waste into the designated stockpile
- For blue container organics:
  - deposit paper, newspaper, envelopes, and books into the designated recycling bin
  - deposit cardboard and shipping boxes into the designated recycling bin
- For remaining waste, drop on the dumping pad in the designated area as directed by County staff

## Additional Resources and Information

Please be mindful that organic wastes are prohibited from being placed in any curbside trash container that may be picked up from your residence, should you have trash service established.

The following websites offer additional information that you will find helpful.

### **Kern County Public Works, Organics – <https://www.kernpublicworks.com/organics>**

Learn about the importance of organics recycling by browsing the SB 1383 Organics Recycling webpages. Click on the Homeowners & Residents page to learn more about organics wastes that you may generate in your household. You can watch the short 3-minute Residential Recycling video for a quick tutorial and some ideas on separating your waste.

### **Kern County Public Works, Services – <https://www.kernpublicworks.com/services>**

Learn about the various recycling and disposal facilities operated by the County. Click on the Solid Waste page and then click on the Disposal Site Recycling page to read about the convenient recycling opportunities at our landfills and transfer stations. A wide variety of materials are separated from the waste stream and are further processed into new products. You can expect to be directed to a recycling area once on site. Your materials need to be separated and clean of contaminants.

### **CalRecycle – <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp>**

Senate Bill 1383 requires all residents to separate their organic wastes from the trash and requires organic waste to be recovered, recycled, or composted. Organics like food scraps, yard trimmings, paper, and cardboard make up half of what Californians dump in landfills. Reducing organic waste from entering local landfills will have the fastest impact on the climate crisis.

The Kern County Public Works Department will be offering complimentary kitchen pails and backyard composting bins to residents in your self-haul area that are interested. If you are interested, please email [organics@kerncounty.com](mailto:organics@kerncounty.com) to have your name placed on the list. After your name is placed on the list, you will be contacted with information regarding the distribution of the complimentary kitchen pails and backyard composting bins.